REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 12, 18, and 19 are currently active in this case. Claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 have been amended by the current amendment. In the outstanding office action, claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; claims 1-4, 7-10, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 6,751,064 to Kuwijima et al.; and claims 5, 6, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable by U.S. patent No. 6,751,064 to Kuwijima et al. Figs. 6 and 7 were objected to for failing to be identified as "prior art;" the title of the invention was objected to for being non-descriptive; and claims 2 and 8 were objected to.

In response to the objection to the drawings, Figs. 6 and 7 have been corrected to reflect that those figures illustrate prior art. No further objection to the drawings is anticipated.

In response to the objection to the title, the title has been amended to clarify that the supporting mechanism includes a dummy weight.

In response to the objection to claims 2 and 8, those claims have been amended as recommended by the examiner.

In response to the rejection of claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 19 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, claims 2 and 8 have been amended to correct the antecedent basis issue regarding "center lines." Regarding the "magnetic head" recitation of claim 8, that recitation has been amended to read "magnetic head slider" which has an antecedent basis in base claim 7. No further objection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, is therefore anticipated.

Briefly recapitulating, the invention defined by claim 1 includes a dummy weight which is attached to a rear end of the head arm so as to make a center of mass of a portion

including all of the magnetic head slider, the load beam, the head arm and the dummy weight coincide with a center of swing movement of the head arm in a radial direction of a recording medium and with a center of swing movement of the head arm in a direction perpendicular to a recording surface of the recording medium.

Similarly, the invention defined by claim 7 includes the dummy weight feature which is attached to a rear end of the head arm so as to make a center of mass of a portion including all of the magnetic head slider, the load beam, the head arm and the dummy weight with a center of swing movement of the head arm in a radial direction of a recording medium and with a center of swing movement of the head arm in a direction perpendicular to a recording surface of said recording medium.

That is, according to the present invention, the center of mass of the magnetic head slider, the load beam, the head arm and the dummy weight is made to coincide with the center of swing movement of the head arm by the dummy weight. As described on page 16 lines 15-27 of the Specification, by providing the dummy weight, which can adjust the attached position or weight thereof, it renders it possible (a) to shift the center of mass to a predetermined position after assembling the head slider and other parts to the VCM etc., and (b) to facilitate efficient assembling process of the hard disk drive.

In contrast thereto, the Kuwijima patent discloses a head supporting mechanism, a suspension apparatus, and a magnetic head apparatus. The official action asserts that the "coil holder 8" anticipates the dummy weight feature of the present invention.

However, as described on column 12, lines 31-43 of Kuwijima, the head supporting device is designed in a manner such that the center of gravity of a portion retained by the plate spring (i.e., the center of gravity of the support arm to which the coil 3 and the coil holder 8 are mounted) is placed at a position substantially coincident with an intermediate

point P. That is, the coil holder 8 does not change the position of center of gravity of the head support device, the support arm, or weight thereof.

The present invention, on the other hand, was invented to deal with a case where it is difficult to make the center of mass coincident with the rotation center in the usual design layout of the head arm, load beam, magnetic head slider and the like. The dummy weight feature was derived to deal with this case. That is, the dummy weight changes the position of the center of mass of the dummy weight, the head arm, load beam, magnetic head slider and the like. Therefore, the device of Kuwijima merely teaches the typical configuration known in the prior art, but fails to teach or suggest the dummy weight feature of the present invention.

For the foregoing reasons, Kuwijima is not believed to anticipate or render obious the subject matter defined by claim 1. Claims 2 – 12, 18, and 19 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. And early in favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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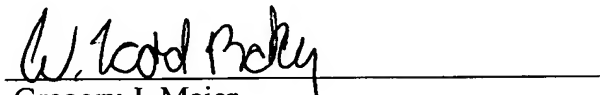

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached two sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 6 and 7. These sheets, which include Figs. 6 and 7, replace the original sheets including Figs. 6 and 7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets